Passenger Vehicles Green Purchasing Specification Background

Covered Products: All light-duty purchased, leased or rental vehicles, including battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs)

The transportation sector is NYS' largest source of GHG and NO_x emissions. In 2019, the State passed the nation-leading Climate Act - the most aggressive and clean energy agenda in the country. New York's Climate Act builds on almost a decade of climate leadership and specifically calls for an 85% Reduction in GHG Emissions by 2050, among several other goals, which will partially come from electrification of the transportation sector.

In addition, in 2021, Governor Hochul signed into law a phase out of the sale of fossil fuel vehicles. As part of this phase out, by 2035, the State has set a goal that all passenger vehicles sold or leased shall be zero emissions. In addition, the State has committed to align with the federal government to make sure all state light-duty vehicles are electric by 2035, as part of the U.S. Climate Alliance COP26 commitment.

Vehicles that operate primarily on gasoline or diesel have historically accounted for over 99% of cars and passenger truck sales. However, sales of cars that operate on other fuels, particularly electricity, are becoming more and more popular as we look toward cleaner forms of transportation.

This specification is intended to make state agencies aware of the information above so that they can factor it into their procurement decisions, and to help them lower their emissions impact by providing guidance and recommendations regarding low and zero emission electric vehicle purchases.